

The information is aggregated from open source online resources and our own practice. In these newsletters, we will update you in brief on everyday human rights violations in numbers and facts.

## **Saturday 18 June 2022 to Friday 24 June 2022**

Human Constanta expresses its [solidarity](#) with the people of Ukraine. We urge the international community to prioritize the voices and stories of Ukrainians, highlight violations of human rights and international law, call for accountability for the actions of the aggressor, and [support the most vulnerable groups fleeing the war without discrimination](#).

### **Pressure for supporting Ukraine**

On 21 June 2022, it became known that [a native of Ukraine had been detained](#) for allegedly distributing extremist materials and hanging the Ukrainian coat of arms from her car. As a result, the security forces forced her to replace the coat of arms with the state flag of Belarus, despite the fact that Ukrainian symbols are not officially banned and are not included in the Republican List of Extremist Materials.

### **List of people involved in terrorist activities has been updated**

On 20 June 2022, the State Security Committee (KGB) [included nine Belarusians](#) in the list of people involved in terrorist activities. The list was updated with people detained for comments on the Internet after the death in a shootout of KGB officer Dmitry Fedosyuk and IT specialist Andrei Zeltser; a representative of the opposition initiative 'Cyberpartisans'; a man convicted of commenting on security officials who broke up protests after the presidential election; a former Special Purpose Police Detachment officer, now participating in the military conflict on the side of Ukraine against Russian aggression; a Borisov resident who allegedly set fire to two toll collection system portals.

Currently, in total about 90 Belarusians are included in the list of 'terrorists' held on politically motivated charges – on par with members of ISIS, Al-Shabab, etc.

### **Harassment of independent media**

On 21 June 2022, security forces detained journalist [Nikolai Markevich](#), one of the founders and editor-in-chief of the independent newspaper Pagonya, in Grodno. The charges for the arrest are unknown.

On 23 June 2022, a trial began in Homel against [Irina Slavnikova](#), ex-representative of the independent publication Belsat, under Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code ("Creation of an Extremist Formation"). According to investigators, she had "formed the composition of the community, distributed roles, corrected the news agenda, financially provided and financed the activities of this media outlet", previously recognized as an extremist formation.

### **Defamation cases on the rise**

On 22 June 2022, a resident of Minsk, [Katerina Balabanovich](#), was detained on charges of insulting a representative of the authorities (Article 369 of the Criminal Code), for critical comments about Alexander Lukashenko's regime. On the same day, another Minsk resident, [Sergei Latushkin](#), was detained for insulting a policeman on the Internet, and in the city of Lida (Grodno region), [Ivan Kashko](#) was detained, charged with criminal liability for insulting the president and government officials, inciting social hatred, and threatening violence against police officers for expressing an alternative opinion. It is also known that [Maxim Moroz](#), a lecturer at the Institute of Business of the Belarusian State University, was detained for posting

in a student chat “We will either win or we will be avenged. By law or just like that. We must go to the end.” On 23 June 2022, [a Latvian citizen was detained](#) and sent to a psychiatric hospital, allegedly “for examination”, on whose phone the security forces found messages condemning the actions of Lukashenko’s regime.

On 21 June 2022, an [IT specialist was detained](#), for being involved in the chats of activists and being engaged in the mass mailing of complaints about the channels of propagandists and state journalists with the aim of further blocking and deleting them.

### **Political prisoners**

The total number of political prisoners in Belarus is [1222](#). The number continues to grow daily.